

Authority to procure and award Enhanced Youth Work grant projects

Date: 16/06/2021

Report of: Youth Offer Lead

Report to: Director of Children and Families

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report seeks approval to deliver a two year grants programme totalling £400,000 (£200,000 per annum) to fund youth work provision in the 12 wards across Leeds with the highest levels of deprivation. Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 will be awarded through an open application process. The evaluation of submissions will consider the quality of the proposal, the fair distribution of funds across the localities and, the provision of a varied offer in each ward.
- This report seeks approval to procure grant projects to deliver enhanced youth work in 12 wards across Leeds with the highest levels of deprivation and award grants to successful applicants. This is a two year grants programme totalling £400,000 (£200,000 per annum) for grants ranging from £5,000 to £20,000 per annum.
- This decision supports the ambitions of the Best Council Plan and the ambitions of a Child Friendly City, including improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes; improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing; and helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work.
- This decision is a consequence of the key decision made by the Executive Board in April 2021 to approve the recommendations of the youth work review report.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children and Families is recommended to approve the establishment of a two year Enhanced Youth Work Grant Programme through which grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 per annum will be allocated following a competitive application process. Grant projects may be for two years, one year or shorter duration for the period 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2024 at a total value of up to £400,000. Grants will be awarded to successful applicants and overseen by the Commissioning and Market Management team.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The funding for this grants programme is in scope of a review of targeted youth work, the findings of which were approved by the Executive Board in April 2021. One of the recommendations of the Executive Board report was to establish a new two year grants programme to deliver enhanced youth work.
- 2 As detailed in the Executive Board report, the future model of youth work delivery will consist of a core offer of provision that all 11-17 year old young people can access and benefit from. This will be delivered by the LCC Youth Service. In addition, there will be an enhanced youth work offer delivered by external providers that will meet the needs of our most vulnerable groups of young people living in Leeds.
- 3 Leeds continues to be committed to a mixed economy of provision and working in partnership with the third sector to improve outcomes for young people, maximise resources in local communities and address any gaps in provision to ensure equitable access. The use of grants as well as contracts will help ensure smaller community based organisations are able to apply for funding to deliver discrete or time-limited projects, providing greater flexibility and a timely responsive approach to emerging issues.
- 4 Consultations in June to inform priorities for the grants programme will help identify any potential gaps we might find following the evaluation of grant applications. One approach being considered by the project team is to approach the Youth Service where we identify gaps in applications. It is essential there is equity in the distribution of funding, and previous experience of similar grants programmes is that some areas received far fewer third sector bids than others. In that case, the Youth Service is well placed to deliver targeted work through the grants scheme.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected: Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside, Middleton Park, Temple Newsam Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Farnley & Wortley, Kirkstall, Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Chapel Allerton, Gipton & Harehills, Killingbeck & Seacroft

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 5 This decision will ensure young people living in the most deprived wards will have access to a variety of enhanced youth work projects from April 2022 in line with the findings of the youth review and the recommendations of the Executive Board report. The youth work review highlighted many areas of good practice across the city and demonstrated the difference youth work makes to the lives of young people in Leeds. In Leeds, youth work is delivered as a preventative and early intervention service for young people.
- 6 Some of the grants will be very low value and so any requirements in relation to delivering social value will need to be proportionate. Providers will be required to commit to delivering social value as part of their grant application and explain how they will deliver social value within their delivery proposal that will form part of the grant agreement.
- 7 Delivery will be focused in 12 wards with highest indices of deprivation. This is in recognition that young people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have lower attainment at school, are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment or training) post 16, and are more likely to be involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 8 An Equality Impact Assessment screening document has been completed and is attached at Appendix 1. The new projects will be focused in areas of greatest need and will increase

the capacity of community based organisations to engage with a wider number of young people.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 9 There are no particular legal or statutory requirements to undertake consultation as part of this decision. Existing commissioned providers of youth work have been consulted and are aware of our intention to close current contracts and grants and undertake a new competitive grants process.
- 10 This decision follows on from the review of targeted youth work. Extensive consultation took place with a wide range of key stakeholders as part of this review, including what services were in scope and the timetable for procurement. Further consultation will take place in June 2021 to inform the specifics and priorities for the grant brief.

What are the resource implications?

- 11 This is a two year grants programme totalling £400,000 (£200,000 per annum) for grants ranging from £5,000 to £20,000 per annum.
- 12 The budget service sits within the Head of Service for Looked After Children budget area.
- 13 Grant applicants will be asked to detail how they will deliver the outcomes of the programme and this will be monitored throughout the life of the grant agreement to ensure value for money is achieved and essential learning is captured.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 This report contains a significant operational decision and as such is not subject to call in.
- 15 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information under the Access to Information Rules.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 16 It is essential that the process of evaluating grant applications is fair and transparent to avoid challenge and foster trusting relationships with partners across the sector. The method of evaluation will be clearly explained in the grant application instructions and strictly adhered to by the evaluation panel. The panel will consist of individuals with relevant knowledge and understanding of youth work and the new model for youth work in Leeds and will include representation from Young Lives Leeds and the Commissioning and Market Management team.
- 17 Following the application and evaluation process there may be gaps in provision. If this is the case, the project team will approach the Youth Service to request a delivery proposal and longer-term, will work with partners in the third sector to develop the market.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 18 The new model for youth work delivery will help achieve the priority of inclusive growth by supporting more young people to be active citizens that are able to participate in education, employment or training.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

19 Numerous options for commissioning youth work were considered and consulted on with stakeholders throughout the youth work review. Other options and models for youth work were discounted for various reasons. This option was found to have the most benefits for young people and communities in line with the findings of the review.

b) How will success be measured?

20 Grant recipients will be required to submit monitoring information to evidence outputs, quality and impact of delivery against the outcomes of the programme.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

21 The grants programme will be advertised in mid-July 2021 and grants will be awarded by end of November to start 01/04/2022.

Appendices

22 Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment screening document.

Background papers

23 None.